

(a) whether consumer items available in Kendriya Bhandar particularly in Delhi are substandard and the prices thereof are higher as compared to the market price;

(b) whether the Government have received complaints during the last three years in this regard;

(c) if so, the number thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the quality of consumer items and also excess price in all the branches of Kendriya Bhandar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SH. S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) All the goods packed by the Kendriya Bhandar are released for sale only after pre-testing. Goods are also tested after lifting them at random from the stores. Kendriya Bhandar's quality control Department also investigates all complaints in regard to quality of goods on sale. It is, thus, not correct that Kendriya Bhandar sells substandard goods.

As regards prices, Kendriya Bhandar adds small mark-up to cover its overheads. Its prices are, therefore, generally lower than the market prices.

(b) and (c) The number of complaints/suggestions received by Kendriya Bhandar during the last 3 years in regard to quality are as under:-

Year	Numbers
1994-95	26
1995-96	23
1996-97	5

No complaint regarding prices has been received during the above period in Kendriya Bhandar.

(d): The steps taken by the Kendriya Bhandar as indicated vide answer to part (a) adequately ensure control on the quality as well as the prices of consumer items on sale in its various stores.

[English]

Leksell Gamma Knife

2363. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Leksell gamma knife has been installed at AIIMS, New Delhi to undertake brain surgery without opening the skull;

(b) if so, the cost of the above gamma knife;

(c) the average number of brain surgeries being performed every year at NIMHANS Bangalore; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to procure Leksell gamma knife for NIMHANS, Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cost of Leksell Gamma Knife is Rs. 12.64 crores.

(c) On an average 1500 brain surgeries are performed every year at NIMHANS, Bangalore.

(d) The Institute have projected the requirement of Leksell Gamma Knife in the 9th Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Health Melas

2364. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Health Melas organised by the Government during the year 1996-97;

(b) the number of such Melas organised in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) the number of melas out of them organised by Government and Non-Government Organisations, separately and the locations thereof;

(d) the funds utilised for organising Melas in Uttar Pradesh;

(e) whether any specific conditions have been laid down to organise such Melas through Non-Government Organisations; and

(f) the number of Melas organised by (i) Indian Medical Association (ii) Rotary/Lions Club (iii) Indian Red Cross Society in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1996-97 and the funds given to them for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) 1237 Swasthya Melas were sanctioned to be organised by States Government & N.G.Os during 1996-97.

(b) to (d) Eight Swasthya Melas were organised in Uttar Pradesh only through N.G.Os at Dahagaon Kekralla